

## BOOK REVIEWS

**COMMON CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.** By Philip Moen Stimson, A.B., M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Cornell University Medical College; Visiting Physician, Willard Parker Hospital; Director, Poliomyelitis Service, The Knickerbocker Hospital; Medical Director, The Floating Hospital of St. John's Guild. Fourth Edition, thoroughly revised. Published 1947. 503 pages with 67 illustrations and 8 plates, 6 in color. Flexible binding, \$4.00. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia.

This is a needed revision of a familiar work. It is written by a clinician of long experience in isolation hospitals. It does not pretend to be a reference work. It is a manual to be used on the spur of the moment by general practitioners, internists, pediatricians, public health officers and medical students. Nurses may be added to this list, so elementary does the author become at times.

The new chapter on antibiotics is a good summary of the indications and contra-indications for their use. The chapter of the general management of contagious diseases in the home and hospital is practically official for public health officers.

Active immunization procedures are not discussed as fully as most pediatricians require. On the other hand treatment is discussed in more detail than in many text books. The chapter on poliomyelitis is the best in the manual.

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**REHABILITATION THROUGH BETTER NUTRITION.** By Tom D. Spies, M.D., From the Department of Internal Medicine, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. 94 p., 50 Fig. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1947. Price \$4.00.

Dr. Tom D. Spies is an indefatigable worker, a fluent talker and a facile writer who seems to love all three occupations. For 17 years he has devoted himself to the study of deficiency diseases, writing an increasing number of articles in medical journals. At present he is writing monographs, of which this is the second in a few months.

This monograph is concerned with the long-term application of the principles of nutritive therapy which make it possible for the malnourished to regain health and to perform work. It is largely a summary of his personal experiences, particularly of the studies at the Hillman Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama. It is worth-while reading for the physician interested in the problems of nutrition, even if the type of case encountered is generally different from that which one encounters in the Pacific Coast States.

The author arbitrarily excludes from consideration deficiencies of vitamin D and K and touches very lightly on microcytic anemia and non-tropical sprue for the reason that he has not seen much of these conditions. While this is commendable in that one can be sure of the author's personal knowledge about the subjects which he does discuss at length, it detracts from whatever value the book may have as a useful textbook on the diagnosis and therapy of the deficiency diseases as a whole. The signs and symp-

toms of those conditions which are taken up at length are well detailed. The long subclinical period found in all vitamin deficiencies is brought out well. The emphasis given to a 4,000 calory diet is misleading to physicians who work among a population not given to heavy manual labor—and, if followed, would certainly lead to a wide-spread obesity productive of as many difficulties as the prior malnutrition.

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**TUBERCULOSIS, AS IT COMES AND GOES.** By Edward W. Hayes, M.D., F.A.C.P., Associate Professor of Tuberculosis, College of Medical Evangelists, Los Angeles, with Chapters by Laurence de Rycke, Ph.D. Second edition. May 1, 1947. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois. Price \$3.75.

The second edition of this extremely useful little book on pulmonary tuberculosis written largely for the benefit of the patient is entirely revised and maintains the same high standard set in the first edition. Two excellent chapters entitled "Suggestions to Patients" and "Suggestions to Visitors" have been written by Dr. Laurence de Rycke, Ph. D. These are a distinct addition to the book. The diagrams illustrating collapse therapy are especially informative and render the book valuable in explaining to the patient measures later advocated by his own physician.

The page size has been enlarged and the type with it. The new edition is distinctly easier for a patient to read than the old one. The book may be highly recommended by physicians to their patients.

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**PERIPHERAL VASCULAR DISEASES. (Angiology).** By Saul S. Samuels, A.M., M.D. Consulting Vascular Surgeon, Long Beach Hospital, Long Beach, New York; Attending Vascular Surgeon, Brooklyn Hospital for the Aged; Chief of the Department of Peripheral Arterial Diseases, Stuyvesant Polyclinic Hospital, New York; Fellow in Surgery, New York Academy of Medicine; Member of Committee on Surgery, New York Diabetes Association. Second Edition, 1947, pp. 85. Oxford Medical Outline Series. Oxford University Press, New York. Price \$2.50.

In the preface to this second edition of his book, the author emphasizes the importance of assigning the entire responsibility for the care of patients with peripheral vascular disease to one individual "expertly trained in both medical and surgical phases of the subject, if progress in this field is to be made along present lines with a reduction in the number of cases requiring amputation and in the mortality rate."

This book is an outline for students and graduate physicians. The opening chapters briefly review the anatomy of the blood vessels and autonomic nervous system, classification of peripheral vascular diseases and symptomatology. Then follows the most significant section of the book devoted to a consideration of physical signs of arterial occlusion, diagnostic tests and the conservative treatment of obliterative arterial disease. The author has had a vast experience in this field. Emphasis is placed on simpler forms of prevention and treatment rather than on the use